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On page 14, lines 10 to 25 substitute the following paragraph:

At a moment $t1a - t0a$, as can be seen from figs. 10a and 10b, the edge 1a is cut laterally by the shears 3a. The cutting is not performed instantaneously as in the first embodiment, but will have a duration until moment $t2a$. During that interval of time ($t2a - t1a$), the edge is "blocked" at the shears level, and since the film is still coming out from the oven or stretcher, a loop will build up with the incoming edge. The channel being activated, e.g. by suction means (not represented), the loop will form into the channel. The loop 12 is represented by the dotted line and may extend into the channel by a distance that can be varied up to one meter or less or more. For example, ($t2a - t1a$) can be about 0.1 s, the speed of the film can be 5 m/s, thus the loop will have a length of 0.25 m. The suction means are not represented here but are conventional (see first embodiment).

On page 15, lines 1 to 7, substitute the following paragraph:

At a further moment $t3a - t2a$, as can be seen from figs. 12a and 12b, the lids of the edge channel 4a are open 15, releasing the edge; in fact the bottom and inner parts of the edge channels are not represented for the sake of understanding; further details can be seen on fig. 19. As in the first embodiment, the edge may "fall" onto another film path, and the channel 4a may be retracted.

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the Office position setting forth rejections of claims 15 and 17 under the provisions of 35 USC 112, second paragraph, and 35 USC 102 (b).

In the present amendment, claim 15 has been amended to recite numerals 13, 4a, 4b, and 15 in accordance with the disclosure of the body of the patent application. Claim 17 has been amended to have claim dependency only on claim 15.

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Non-elected claims 1 to 14 have been cancelled due to the restriction requirement present in an earlier Office communication. Additionally, claim 25 has been cancelled. Claims 15 to 24 and 26 to 28 are present in this amendment.

It is noted that claims 26 to 28, directed to an edge channel, have been grouped with elected method claims. It is believed this grouping is in error. Clarification is requested of the Office position. In the event of a further restriction requirement, claims 26 to 28 will be cancelled subject to the right of filing a divisional patent application.

In the present amendment claims 18, 22, 23, 24 and 28 have been amended with elimination of multiple dependent claims.

In paragraph 2 of the Office action the drawings were objected under 37 CFR 1.83(a). Accompanying the present amendment in a separate paper are proposed drawing corrections with new Fig. 10a, 10b, 11a, 11b, 12a, 12b, 16a, 16b. Antecedent support for the changes is discussed in the separate paper. No new matter is considered present.

In the present amendment substitute paragraphs have been inserted due to number 11, 12, 13 and 15 now appearing in the drawings.

In paragraph 4 of the Office action claims 15 and 17 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, in lack of clarity for "opening the channel(s)" and "forming a loop of edges at the vicinity of the edge channel." Independent claim 15 adds numbers for purposes of conformance to the provisions of 35 USC 112.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully submitted to be proper.

In paragraph 6 of the Office action claims 15 and 17 stand rejected under 35 USC 102 (b) as being anticipated by Collins et al. (Collins), USP 3,756,527. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Collins discloses a method of threading a web of plastic film onto a windup roll and winding it thereon, which notably includes the steps (hereafter freely renumbered) of

- (i) *slitting the web 10' with web slitters 21 as it moves in the first path P-1 to form the leader strip 10';*
- (ii) *cutting the leader strip 10' and*
- (iii) *diverting it into a second moving means 40 including at least one pneumatic strip transport tube 41 positioned adjacent the first path P-1; moving the strip 10' in the second path P-2 through the tube or tubes 41 by the second moving means 40;*
- (iv) *pulling the strip 10' from the tube 41 through the slot 45 therein and into the third path P-3 defined by process rolls by third moving means 17;*
- (v) *moving the strip 10' in the third path P-3 by the third moving means 17;*
- (vi) *expanding the strip 10' to form the web 10 [...].*

Inspection of figures 9-13 of Collins, as cited in the Office rejection, shows that the leader strip 10' refers to a central portion of the web 10 (see also col. 5, lines 7-9, col. 11, lines 6-8).

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In contrast to Collins, step (i) of claim 15 of the invention recites:

(i) *cutting off at least one edge (1a, 1b) laterally from the central portion (1c);*

Collins does thus neither anticipate such a step, nor the following steps as claimed since Collins teaches subsequent steps of operating on the leader strip 10', while the method according to the invention operates on at least one edge.

Further, Collins does not teach:

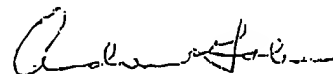
(v) *opening (15) the channel(s) to release said at least one edge (step (v) of claim 15).*

Applicant's directly take a position that Collins teaches away from the claimed invention. This patent requires a central leader strip. One of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to employ a lateral strip in direct contract. Also, Collins provides for "channels" which do not allow their opening. Again, one of ordinary skill in the art to a channel that could be open in operation for releasing a bead. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 15 and 17 is in order.

It is respectfully requested that rejoinder of claims 16 and 18 to 24 is in order with allowance of claims 15 and 17.

In summary, proposed drawings are submitted in conformance with the Office requirement. Applicant's believe claims 26 to 28 have been inadvertently grouped with the claimed invention. Clarification is requested. The reasons why the rejections under 35 USC 112 and 35 USC 102 are inappropriate have been discussed. A rejoinder of invention is considered proper of all method claims. A notice of allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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